

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 02650 160749Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-11 /115 W
-----003321 161325Z /53

R 160628Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7447
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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PASS STR

USMISSION GENEVA FOR MTN DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, IR
SUBJ: MTN-US/IRAN BILATERAL

REF: A. STATE 24987, B. TEHRAN 1204, C. GENEVA 3357

1. IN FOLLOW-UP TO APPROACHES MADE CONCERNING MTN, REPORTED IN REF B, EMBOFF MARCH 13 DISCUSSED IRAN'S MTN POSTURE AND EXPORT CONCERNS WITH UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS NASER GANJEI. SUBSTANCE OF HIS COMMENTS WAS AN APPRECIATION FOR U.S. BILATERAL, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT FROM IRANIAN GENEVA DELEGATION OF U.S. INDICATIVE LISTS AS WELL AS MUCH OTHER MTN TRAFFIC (INCLUDING EMBASSY'S DEMARCHE PURSUANT TO REF A) AND A RELUCTANT ADMISSION THAT THE GOI IS NOT UP TO THE TASK BUREAUCRATICALLY TO RESPOND IN A TIMELY AND THOUGHTFUL MANNER. GANJEI SAID THE NEW TEAM AT MIMCOM WILL CHANGE THIS "SAD" STATE OF AFFAIRS AND MOVE THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY ISSUES TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A HIGHER PRIORITY WITH COMMENSURATE EXPERTISE BUT IN THE IMMEDIATE PERIOD THE GOI IS FACED WITH THE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS (MARCH 21; IRAN VIRTUALLY SHUTS DOWN FOR TWO TO THREE WEEKS AROUND THIS PERIOD). AND ANY SIGNIFICANT INPUT THEREAFTER TO THE MTN IS UNLIKELY.

2. IN BACKGROUND, IT IS USEFUL TO RECALL THAT MINCOM

KHOSROWSHAHI, APPOINTED FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR WITH THE AMOUZEGAR CABINET LAST AUGUST, MADE A CLEAN SWEEP OF HIS UNDER-SECRETARIES SEPTEMBER 24 AND THEREAFTER ATTEMPTED SIMULTANEOUSLY TO INTRODUCE ORGANIZATIONAL AND POLICY CHANGES. GIVEN THE THIN VENEER OF EXPERTISE IN ANY GOI MINISTRY AND THE RELUCTANCE TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY EVEN TO THE UNDER SECRETARY LEVELS, THIS PRODUCED WHAT GANJEI ADMITTED IS STILL A STATE OF BEDLAM IN THE MINISTRY, WITH LINES OF AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY UNCLEAR AND POLICY REVIEW BOGGED DOWN. KHOSROWSHAHI REPORTEDLY HAS TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION TWICE HE PERCEIVED CENSURE ON POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES AND, UNDERSTANDABLY, ALL THIS IS NOT CON-
DUCIVE TO EVEN THE RECENT REACTIVE POLICY DECISIONS PRESENTED BY THE MTN. FOR THIS REASON, EMBASSY, AS REPORTED IN REF B, WORKED THE ISSUE INITIALLY WITH THE ECONOMICS AND FOREIGN MINISTRIES. EMBASSY SUGGESTS, THEREFORE, REDUCED EXPECTATIONS FROM IRAN ON THE MTN, WHICH IN ANY CASE NEVER WENT BEYOND THE DE FACTO OB-SERVER STATUS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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